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Serial No. 09/376,651  
Docket No. JA9-98-073  
Firm No. 0036,0066

Applicants request the Examiner to enter the amendments to the claims to place this CPA case in condition for allowance.

### IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 2, 3, 10, 12, 18, and 21 as follows and as shown in the "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made", submitted pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121.

2. (Thrice Amended) A medium feeding apparatus comprising:

<sup>(ADJL)</sup>  
at least one align roller to align a medium in a path; and

a feed assistance member comprising:

<sup>(see w/o)</sup>  
(i) a shaft; and

<sup>(14)</sup>  
(ii) a feed assistance roller rotably mounted to the shaft and positioned to apply pressure on the medium in the path to stabilize the medium while the medium is being aligned in the path by the at least one align roller, wherein the feed assistance member is not rotably connected to the align roller, and wherein the feed assistance roller is not vertically aligned with any roller.

3. (Twice Amended) A medium feeding apparatus comprising:

at least one vertical align roller to align the medium in the vertical direction;

a lateral align roller to align the medium in the lateral direction; and

a feed assistance member comprising:

(i) a shaft; and

(ii) a feed assistance roller rotably mounted to the shaft and positioned to apply pressure on the medium in the path to stabilize the medium while the medium is being aligned in the path by the at least one align roller, wherein the feed assistance member is not rotably connected to the align roller, wherein the feed assistance roller is not vertically aligned with any roller, and wherein the feed assistance member is mounted between one lateral align roller and one vertical align roller.

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10. (Thrice Amended) A medium processing device including a medium feeding apparatus to feed the medium through a feed path in the processing device, wherein the medium feeding apparatus comprises:

at least one align roller to align a medium in a path; and  
a feed assistance member comprising:

(i) a shaft;

(ii) a feed assistance roller rotably mounted to the shaft and positioned to apply pressure on the medium in the path to stabilize the medium while the medium is being aligned in the path by the at least one align roller, wherein the feed assistance member is not rotably connected to the align roller, and wherein the feed assistance roller is not vertically aligned with any roller.

12. (Twice Amended) A medium processing device including a medium feeding apparatus to feed the medium through a feed path in the processing device, wherein the medium feeding apparatus comprises:

at least one vertical align roller to align the medium in the vertical direction;

a lateral align roller to align the medium in the lateral direction;

a feed assistance member comprising:

(i) a shaft; and

(ii) a feed assistance roller rotably mounted to the shaft and positioned to apply pressure on the medium in the path to stabilize the medium while the medium is being aligned in the path by the at least one align roller, wherein the feed assistance member is not rotably connected to the align roller, wherein the feed assistance roller is not vertically aligned with any roller, and wherein the feed assistance member is mounted between one lateral align roller and one vertical align roller.

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18. (Twice Amended) A feed assistance apparatus for feeding a medium in a medium processing apparatus, comprising:

at least one align roller for feeding the medium;

a member portion contacting said medium being fed to increase a frictional force generated on the medium while the medium is being aligned in the path by the at least one align roller;

wherein the member portion is not rotably connected to the align roller, and wherein the member portion is not vertically aligned with any roller.

21. (Amended) A feed assistance apparatus for feeding a medium in a medium processing apparatus, comprising:

at least one vertical align roller to align the medium in the vertical direction;

a lateral align roller to align the medium in the lateral direction;

a member portion contacting said medium being fed to increase a frictional force generated on the medium while the medium is being aligned in the path by the at least one align roller; and

wherein the member portion is not rotably connected to the align roller, and wherein the member portion is not vertically aligned with any roller, and wherein the member portion is mounted between one lateral align roller and one vertical align roller.